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FLOOR DEBATE

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come over to the state that formerly went to the county to reimburse them for their salaries and benefits, now comes over to the state. So the total cost of running the system that is new to the state is about \$7.5 million. As you know,...

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: One minute.

SENATOR BEUTLER: ...we have very significant amounts of excess revenues right now. The Governor is talking about tax cuts. We have to make choices. We need to have a good reserve fund. But there comes a time in the cycle of things where you either correct the structure so that it can go on a path that's efficient, or you let it pass and it doesn't happen for another decade. If you pass this bill, you open up and allow to happen a merger process that can be extremely valuable to the long-term structuring of the courts. If you reject this bill, even if you have Senator Flood's certification or some other things that help a little bit with the management side,...

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: Time, Senator Beutler.

SENATOR BEUTLER: ...because they're county employees right now, you can never ever put the offices of the clerks of the district court and the clerks of the county court together.

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: Senator Beutler, you're recognized to continue on your time.

SENATOR BEUTLER: So I urge you to think about that. I think one of the biggest criticisms that this Legislature historically is subject to is that we don't allow change, beneficial change, to happen fast enough. The world is going so fast now. Have you see, have you noticed, how rapidly computers have come on us, and all of the electronic advances? These things are happening more rapidly. And if we're going to adjust our political structures, our court structures, our state office structures, if we're going to make them change and be more efficient with the rapidity that the private sector does, and there's no reason we shouldn't do that to the best of our ability, then we have to position and do those structural, statutory changes that allow us to take advantage of the